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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,436	09/05/2003	Dennis Ray Wilson	18326/03901	8479

7590 03/09/2005

Cheryl S. Ratcliffe
ConocoPhillips Company
P.O. Box 4783
Houston, TX 77210-4783

EXAMINER

STEPHENSON, DANIEL P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3672

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/656,436

Applicant(s)

WILSON, DENNIS RAY

Examiner

Daniel P Stephenson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8, 10-14, 16-23 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 9, 15, 24 and 26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/29/03
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6, 8, 10-14, 16, 18-23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Parrish. Parrish discloses an underground combustion process in which fracturing of underground coal deposits will occur. It entails injecting an oxidizing gas, air or air with oxygen, through a wellbore and into an underground coal formation. Then the coal in the underground formation is ignited. After this, a predetermined amount of a cooling media is injected, forcing the burning of the coal away from the wellbore. The burning coal will later be extinguished. The cooling media can comprise a slug of water, which, when injected into the formation in which the coal is burning, causes additional fracturing of the coal formation. The amount of cooling media is less than the amount needed to offset the BTU's produced by the burning coal since the fire is not extinguished immediately. The air is injected at a pressure equal to or exceeding the fracture pressure.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21-23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pasini, III et al. Pasini, III et al. discloses an underground combustion process in which fracturing of underground coal deposits will occur. It entails injecting an oxidizing gas, air or air with oxygen, through a wellbore and into an underground coal formation. Then the coal in the underground formation is ignited. After this, a

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predetermined amount of a cooling media, i.e. steam, is injected, forcing the burning of the coal away from the wellbore. The burning coal will later be extinguished. The amount of cooling media is less than the amount needed to offset the BTU's produced by the burning coal since the fire is not extinguished immediately. The air is injected at a pressure equal to or exceeding the fracture pressure.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 7, 9, 15, 24 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

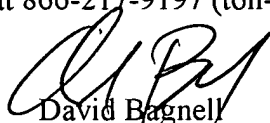
5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Higgins, Stoddard et al., Parker, Terry, Perkins, Riese et al., Hsu et al., Anderson and Savins all show similar elements to those of the present invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel P Stephenson whose telephone number is (703) 605-4969 until 3/31/05 at which time the telephone number will be (571) 272-7035. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J. Bagnell can be reached on (703) 308-2151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David Bagnell
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3672

DPS 